

## ***OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF "SERVICE THROUGH EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, AND COURTESY"***

### ***Gerstacker Trooper of the Year***



*Tpr. Kevin M. Sweeney*

Tpr. Kevin M. Sweeney of the Newaygo Post was voted 2000 Trooper of the Year for symbolizing outstanding professional ethics, dedication to duty, and a concern for giving back to the community. Trooper Sweeney continuously goes beyond the normal call of duty in performing both his work and community responsibilities. Known for his perseverance as an investigator, he received special recognition for his involvement in solving a criminal sexual conduct complaint of a 15-year-old girl who had become pregnant. Trooper Sweeney worked on the investigation for more than 18 months and was able to track down the suspect. The suspect was extradited from Texas and confessed to the crime. Trooper Sweeney is credited with coordinating and hosting the first annual Bailey's Doggie Dash, a 5K run race of owners and their dogs. The event raised funds for the local Humane Society and county parks. He

coaches cross-country and soccer at local schools. He has served as a substitute teacher at area high schools where he has taught History, English, and Criminal Justice. He is currently an adjunct professor in criminal justice at the local community college. Trooper Sweeney enlisted with the department in 1995 as a member of the 113<sup>th</sup> Recruit School. He serves at the Newaygo Post.

### ***Motor Carrier Officer of the Year***

Officer Mark R. Brown was honored as the 2000 Motor Carrier Officer of the Year. This recognition is awarded to the motor carrier officer who typifies outstanding service, accomplishment, and achievement and best upholds, both on and off the job, the department's tradition of service through excellence, integrity, and courtesy. Officer Brown joined the Department of State Police Motor Carrier Division in June of 1994. Upon graduation from recruit school, he was assigned to the Monroe Post, and in December of 1995, he transferred to his current assignment at the Jackson Post.



*Officer Mark R. Brown*



***Floyd R. Bell, Jr. Civilian of the Year***



***Ms. Joy L. Curry***

Ms. Joy L. Curry is the newest recipient of the department’s Floyd R. Bell, Jr., Civilian of the Year Award. Ms. Curry is a secretary for the Gaming Section in the Southeastern Criminal Investigation Division. She is credited with creating numerous databases, spreadsheets, and other comprehensive programs that have allowed the Gaming Section to easily track expenses associated with lengthy in-depth casino application background investigations. She was also recognized for assuming responsibility for training all new unit members and serves as the troubleshooter for the unit, identifying problems, finding solutions, and anticipating needs of the unit. Ms. Curry is a 3-year employee of the department and was chosen for this award as a result of her accomplishments both on and off the job and her efforts to continue the department’s proud tradition

of service through excellence, integrity, and courtesy. Outside of work, Ms. Curry is a volunteer for the Detroit Medical Center Mentor Program, serving as a mentor to high school students dealing with peer pressure, drugs, and violence. She was recently awarded the Civilian Police Community Award and has diligently worked with her neighbors to organize and develop a block club, prepare and distribute a monthly newsletter, and raise funds for the local ACT patrol office.

***Donald S. Leonard Award***



***Lt. Gregory J. Sykes***

Lt. Gregory J. Sykes, Assistant Post Commander of the Metro North Post, was presented the “Donald S. Leonard Award” by the State Bar of Michigan, Criminal Law Section. This award recognizes a Michigan State Police officer who has excelled in the pursuit of continuing education. Lieutenant Sykes graduated from William Tyndale College, Farmington, Michigan, with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University’s School of Police Staff and Command and was elected class vice-president. He recently completed his master’s degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. Lieutenant Sykes enlisted with the department in 1978 and was a member of the 94<sup>th</sup> Recruit School. He has served at the Benton Harbor, Jackson and Bay City posts. He also has

served at the Southeastern Criminal Investigation Division in Livonia and the Criminal Investigation Division in Lansing.



### ***Bravery Award***



***Tpr. Craig R. Wheeler***

Tpr. Craig R. Wheeler of the White Pigeon Post is the recipient of the Michigan State Police Bravery Award. He is credited with risking his life and placing himself in serious danger to save the life of a citizen. Trooper Wheeler and his partner were called to the scene of a house fire. Upon their arrival, they observed fire pouring out of the front windows of the house. Several family members were at the scene and advised that they had attempted to enter the house to rescue the victim but were unsuccessful. Trooper Wheeler entered the house and began crawling through the residence, systematically searching the rooms for the victim. The smoke was so thick within the residence that Trooper Wheeler had to breathe through his shirtsleeve to keep from succumbing to the fumes and smoke. Trooper Wheeler eventually had to retreat from the burning residence to avoid being overcome by the conditions. His partner gained entry into the house by breaking a sliding glass door, located the victim, and pulled her from the burning house to safety. Trooper Wheeler's quick actions aided in saving the victim's life. Trooper Wheeler enlisted with the department in 1998 and graduated as a member of the 117<sup>th</sup> Recruit School. He is assigned to the White Pigeon post.

